

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 00033 022202Z

60

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 093570

O 021922Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1417

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0033

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CU GY AO VE

SUBJECT: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA

1. AT HIS NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ MADE A POINT OF SEEKING ME OUT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PROTOCOLARY CEREMONIES TO SAY THAT THE GOV HAD RECEIVED A "POSITIVE" RESPONSE TO ITS DEMARCHE TO THE GOG. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED, ADDING THAT "WE ARE WITH YOU." VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GOMEZ MANTELLINI ALSO SOUGHT ME OUT TO ASSERT THAT THE GUAYANESE HAD PROMISED TO BLOCK THE CUBAN FLIGHTS. HE REMARKED ON HOW PLEASANT IT WAS TO BE ON THE SAME SIDE AND HOPED WE COULD WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE IT A HABIT.

2. PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES, WHO WAS AN OFFICIAL GUEST AT THE NATIONALIZATION CEREMONIES AND WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION, TOLD US THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ CONCERNED THE PRESIDENT'S DEEP PREOCCUPATION OVER CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. SOARES FOUND FORMER PRESIDENT ROMULO BETANCOURT EQUALLY PREOCCUPIED.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE THE REAL VALUE OF THE GOG'S "POSITIVE" RESPONSE. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT TOOK OUR DEMARCHE SERIOUSLY AND IS GRATIFIED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO COOPERATE WITH US IN WHAT HE UNDOUBTEDLY SEES AS A WORTHY EFFORT TO CURB CUBAN ADVENTURISM. (WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT BETANCOURT AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 00033 022202Z

CARLOS ANDRES FOUGHT A PROTRACTED AND BLOODY WAR AGAINST CUBAN-

SUPPORTED GUERRILLAS. DESPITE OCCASIONAL RHETORICAL AND OTHER GESTURES TO THE CONTRARY--AND DESIGNED FOR THIRD-WORLD CONSUMPTION--THEY DON'T FORGET IT. ANGOLA IS A LONG WAY OFF, BUT GUAYANA IS NOT.)

4. WE ARE UNAWARE OF PRECISELY WHAT THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID IN GEORGETOWN BUT WOULD NOT FIND IT INCO-CEIVABLE THAT THE INSPIRATION FOR SUCH EXCESSES AS HE MAY HAVE UTTERED CAME FROM PRESIDENT PEREZ. AS WE HAVE LEARNED, CARLOS ANDRES IS SOMETIMES GIVE TO RASH SPECULATIONS ABOUT THE MOTIVES AND ACTIONS OF OTHERS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. HE ALSO DRIVES HARD FOR RESULTS AND MIGHT HAVE FELT IMPELLED TO ENERGIZE HIS AMBASSADOR WITH FANTASTIC FORMULATIONS.

5. IN ANY CASE, I HOPE WE CAN AVOID GIVING THE GOV THE IM-PRESSION THAT WE ARE BACKING AWAY FROM THE LEGITIMATE CONCERN BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE OVER THE USE OF GUAYANA AS A STAGING GROUND FOR CUBAN MILITARY OPERATIONS. I HOPE TOO THAT THE GUAYANESE WILL NOT MAKE MISCHIEF BY TRYING TO PUT THE VENEZUELAN IN THE MIDDLE.

6. I PLAN TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTER EARLY NEXT WEEK. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF I COULD GIVE HIM FOR THE PRESIDENT A CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE ANGOLAN SITUATION, INCLUDING THE STATE OF PLAY WITH RESPECT TO CUBAN FLIGHTS AND REFUELING EFFORTS, AS WELL AS A WORD OF APPRECIATION FOR THE GOV'S COOPERATION. I WOULD BE PLEASED, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE, TO TELL HIM AT THE SAME TIME THAT OF COURSE THE USG HAS NEVER CONTEMPLATED THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST GUYANA OR ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT SERVICE THESE CUBAN MILITARY FLIGHTS.
SHLAUDEMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, INTERVENTION, DEMARCHE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA00033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760001-0762
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaadckf.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CU, GY, AO, VE, (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006